

DOCKET NO. 9528-007-27 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: STEPHEN W. DOWNING ART UNIT: UNASSIGNED
SERIAL NO.: NEW DIVISIONAL APPLICATION EXAMINER: UNASSIGNED
FILING DATE: HERewith
FOR: APPARATUSES AND METHODS FOR PERFORMING MINIMALLY
 INVASIVE DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL PROCEDURES INSIDE OF
 A BEATING HEART



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, and to advance the prosecution thereof, please amend the above-referenced application in the following manner.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Delete the first paragraph [0001] after the title at page 1 and insert therefor the following:

-- This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/881,045, filed June 15, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/212,075, filed June 20, 2000, which are incorporated in their entirety herein by reference.--.

